

must not leave Washington for the holidays without extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits that put money into the economy and promote jobs.

GOP is risking tax relief for 160 million Americans while protecting massive tax cuts for 300,000 people making more than a million dollars per year. That is not fair and balanced taxation.

Extending and expanding the payroll tax cut would put \$1,500 into the pockets of the typical middle class family. This may not seem like a lot to many, but to some, \$1,500 is make-or-break money.

GOP JOBS BILL SLASHES BENEFITS, ALLOWS STATES TO DRUG-TEST THE UNEMPLOYED

WASHINGTON—Republican leaders in the House of Representatives unveiled legislation Friday would cut 40 weeks from the duration of federal unemployment compensation and allow states to require the unemployed to pass drug tests in order to receive benefits.

Republicans have not cited any data suggesting that drug use contributes to joblessness or that there is an elevated rate of drug abuse among the unemployed. Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), said the measure is inspired by lawmakers' conversations with businesses in their districts.

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.) cited a local business this week when he introduced a stand-alone drug testing proposal. "I had an employer tell me of an overwhelming response for job openings," said Kingston. "There was just one problem: Half the people who applied could not even pass a drug test."

But Kingston's office declined to name the employer or provide any information supporting the claim. When Gov. Nikki Haley (R-S.C.) made a nearly identical claim earlier this year, it turned out to be completely untrue.

Under current law, states are not allowed to deny workers unemployment insurance for reasons other than on-the-job misconduct, fraud or earning too much money from part-time work. The new bills would expand that list to include failing a drug test. Kingston's proposal would require drug testing; the version that party leaders announced Friday would allow states to test if they chose to. The measures come at the end of a year in which dozens of state lawmakers across the country have proposed drug screening for the poor and jobless.

The House drug testing scheme is part of a much broader legislative package that would reauthorize a plethora of expiring programs, including a payroll tax cut and a portion of the existing regimen of federal unemployment insurance for the long-term jobless. Republicans would reduce the maximum duration of federal benefits from 73 to 33 weeks and permit states to cut benefits even further.

The broader bill, which also calls on the president to speed construction of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, sets the stage for a showdown next week before members return to their districts for the holidays.

Dean Haehnel of the Minneapolis area is watching Congress anxiously. He said he lost his job as a marketing director for a mutual fund company in July, meaning his six months of state benefits will expire at the beginning of January. If Congress doesn't strike a deal, Haehnel will be ineligible for the additional weeks of federal benefits given the long-term jobless since 2008. He said he'd be willing to pee in a cup to keep the money flowing if he hasn't found work by then.

"It's a little bit ludicrous, but I have no problem doing it if that's what it takes," Haehnel said. "They think that's the issue?"

Haehnel, 50, said that each time he's landed an interview, it seems like 200 other people are fighting for the same job. And he said that whenever he's applied for jobs beneath the director level, he's been rejected as over-qualified. His wife is still working, but without his unemployment benefits or income from a new job, he said, his family would struggle to cover the mortgage and pay college tuition for two daughters.

In Minnesota, extending federal benefits under the current rules would make Haehnel eligible for another 60 weeks of help (the number of weeks available varies by state). The latest Republican plan would leave him with 33 weeks. Asked if he thinks he'll need the benefits for that long, Haehnel described a man at one of his weekly networking meetings with other unemployed people. That man was on the verge of leaving the workforce.

"He's right around 62 and he's been looking for almost two years, and he's going to file for Social Security," Haehnel said. "He was a normal guy. It wasn't like he was a drug addict. A normal, hardworking guy who just can't get a job."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COBLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending the funeral of Virginia Tech Police Officer Deriek W. Crouse.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district office.

Mr. CICILLINE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HEINRICH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and December 13 until 5 p.m.

Ms. SEWELL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 470. An act to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2061. An act to authorize the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who die of injuries incurred in connection with their employment.

SENATE ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled joint resolution of the Senate of the following title:

S.J. Res. 22. To grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. McKEON submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 112-329)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1540), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into five divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.

(2) Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.

(3) Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

(4) Division D—Funding Tables.

(5) Division E—SBIR and STTR Reauthorization.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees.